THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Drugs, for which harmful effects or inadequate thereapeutic justification is reported in the context of current medical evidence, are examined by Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) on a continuous basis. Drugs are banned in the country under Section 26A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Based on recommendations of DTAB, if a drug is found to be harmful, it is banned with immediate effect. If there is lack of therapeutic reationale, the drug is banned in a phase wise manner.

(b) to (d) Every country has its own regulatory system for approving or banning drugs after examining overall benefit rise ratio of the drug in consultation with experts and is requirement in the country. The safety and efficacy of a drug is ascertained as per Schedule Y of Drugs and Consmetics Rules before market approval in the country. There is regulatory system in place for ensuring safety and efficacy of drugs before market approval in the country.

Examination of marketed drugs by DTAB is a continuous process and based on the recommendations of DTAB, so far, 78 drugs/drug formulations have been prohibited for marketing in the country. Sale of banned drugs in the country is a punishable offence under Section 28B of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Over burdening of CGHS dispensaries

594. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware the CGHS dispensaries in the country are over burdened;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to open new dispensaries to reduce the burden on the existing dispensaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Staff inspection Unit (SIU), Department of Expenditure, has fixed staffing pattern norms for CGHS dispensaries. Staff to dispensaries are provided on the basis of the norms so fixed. Also, the number of card holders in 2006-07 has come down to 9,12,096 from the earlier figure of 10,66,251.

Decrease in production and sale of khadi garments

†595. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is continous decrease in the production and sale of khadi garments;

(b) the total number of weavers working at present in khadi and village industries in the country alongwith the decrease in the total number of weavers during the last three years;

(c) what steps Government is contemplating to improve the quality of khadi garments and the steps taken by Government to make it competitive;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.